

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 4508

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, BG
SUBJECT: INDO- BANGLADESH JOINT DECLARATION ON SUBCONTINENT
PROBLEMS.

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION ISSUED BY INDIA
AND BANGLADESH APRIL 17:

" THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH HAVE BEEN GIVING CONSISTENTLY THEIR
MOST ANXIOUS THOUGHT AND CONSIDERATION TO THE PROBLEM OF
RESTORING FRIENDLY, HARMONIOUS AND GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS
BETWEEN INDIA, BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN ON THE BASIS OF SOVEREIGN
EQUALITY OF EACH STATE WITH THE OBJECT OF PROMOTING, IN EVERY
POSSIBLE WAY, DURABLE PEACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT, SO THAT
EACH COUNTRY MAY DEVOTE ITS RESOURCES AND ENERGIES TO

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THE PRESSING TASK OF ADVANCING THE WELFARE OF ITS OWN PEOPLE. WITH THIS OBJECT IN VIEW, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH HAVE BEEN CARRYING ON MUTUAL CONSULTATIONS. MORE RECENTLY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH, HIS EXCELLENCY DR. KAMAL HOSSAIN, MADE A VISIT TO DELHI ON APRIL 13, 1973 AT THE INVITATION OF THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, SARDAR SWARAN SINGH. THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO MINISTERS CONCLUDED ON APRIL 16, 1973.

" DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS AND MUTUAL CONSULTATIONS THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH CONSIDERED MEASURES TO PROMOTE JOINTLY THE PROCESSES OF NORMALIZATION IN THE SUBCONTINENT AND TO SOLVE THE HUMANITARIAN AND OTHER PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF THE ARMED CONFLICT OF 1971.

" REVIEWING THE ENTIRE SITUATION IN THE SUBCONTINENT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH NOTED WITH REGRET AND CONCERN THAT PROGRESS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRIENDLY AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS HASN'T YET BEEN ACHIEVED Owing TO THE FAILURE OF PAKISTAN TO RECOGNIZE THE REALITIES IN THE SUBCONTINENT. THEY FELT THAT THE POLICY HITHERTO PURSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN HAS STOOD IN THE WAY OF NEGOTIATIONS AMONG ALL THE THREE COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OF EACH. THEY FURTHER NOTED WITH CONCERN THAT PAKISTAN CONTINUED TO PERSIST IN HOSTILITY TOWARDS BANGLADESH AND DESPITE THE CLEAR PROVISIONS OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT, CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN A HOSTILE ATTITUDE AGAINST INDIA. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH REITERATED THEIR STAND THAT THEY CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH PAKISTAN AT ANY LEVEL EXCEPT ON THE BASIS OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY.

" DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES CREATED AND HOSTILITY MANIFESTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH ARE RESOLVED TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO REDUCE TENSION, PROMOTE FRIENDLY AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS IN THE SUBCONTINENT AND WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DURABLE PEACE.

" INSPIRED BY THIS VISION AND SUSTAINED BY THE HOPE THAT IN THE LARGER INTERESTS OF RECONCILIATION, PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE SUBCONTINENT, PAKISTAN WILL REFRAIN FROM PERSISTING IN HOSTILITY, AND BEARING IN MIND THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT

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AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN WHICH BANGLADESH HAD WELCOMED, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH JOINTLY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

" WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH, THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE READY TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO ALL HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS THROUGH SIMULTANEOUS REPATRIATION OF THE PAKISTANI PRISONERS OF WAR AND CIVILIAN INTERNEES, EXCEPT THOSE REQUIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH FOR TRIAL ON CRIMINAL CHARGES, THE REPATRIATION OF BENGALIERS FORCIBLY DETAINED IN PAKISTAN AND THE REPATRIATION OF PAKISTANIS IN BANGLADESH I. E. ALL NON- BENGALIERS WHO OWE ALLEGIANCE AND HAVE OPTED FOR REPATRIATION TO PAKISTAN.

" THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH EARNESTLY HOPE THAT PAKISTAN WILL RESPOND TO THE CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO RESOLVE THE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS IN THE MANNER SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 5." MOYNIHAN

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